

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 10325 081313Z
ACTION MMO-02

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E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: AODE
SUBJECT: EVALUATION BY CHIEF OF MISSION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 201122

1. THERE ARE TWO BASIC REASONS WHY I THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO CUT BACK THE LEVEL OF USG ACTIVITIES AT THIS MISSION. THE FIRST IS THAT US INTERESTS IN NIGERIA ARE CLEARLY SO EXTENSIVE. NIGERIA HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE LARGE GROUP OF LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND IS THUS IN A POSITION ON SOME OCCASIONS TO WORK FOR THE ADOPTION OF POSITIONS WHICH ARE FAVORABLE TO US INTEREST. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE HELPFUL INFLUENCE WHICH IT EXERTED UPON THE PROCEEDINGS AND OUTCOME OF THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE IN LAGOS AT THE END OF AUGUST. US DIRECT INTERESTS IN NIGERIA ARE ALSO EXTENSIVE, THE MOST CONSPICUOUS BEING NIGERIA'S ROLES AS THE MOST POPULOUS COUNTRY IN AFRICA AND THE SECOND LARGEST EXPORTER OF CRUDE PETROLEUM TO THE UNITED STATES, NOT FAR BEHIND SAUDI ARABIA.

2. A SECOND GENERAL CONSIDERATION BEARING UPON THE LEVEL OF US MISSION ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA IS THAT A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN US-NIGERIAN RELATIONS HAS BEEN EVIDENT IN 1977

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 10325 081313Z

AND IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. BECAUSE OF THIS TREND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING WITH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN COOPERATIVE UNDER-TAKINGS ARE INCREASING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE RANGE OF THE MISSION'S ACTIVITIES.

3. DESPITE THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS I HAVE TAKEN A CAREFUL NEW LOOK AT THE CURRENT PERSONNEL LEVELS OF THE VARIOUS AGENCIES

WHICH ARE REPRESENTED AT THIS POST AND HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS.

4. THE USIS COMPLEMENT IN LAGOS CONSISTS OF 9 AMERICAN OFFICERS, 1 AMERICAN STAFF, 5 FSL PROFESSIONALS AND 27 FSL STAFF. IN ADDITION THERE ARE SMALL COMPLEMENTS IN KADUNA, IBADAN AND KANO. A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE STAFFING PATTERN AT THE TIME OF THE PARM SUBMISSION (LAGOS 4198 OF APRIL 15, 1977) CONVINCED AMBASSADOR EASUM THAT NO REDUCTION IN THE ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL LEVEL OF USIS COULD BE JUSTIFIED. THIS CONTINUES TO BE THE CASE. AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY INDICATIONS OF A GREATER WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF NIGERIANS TO MEET WITH, COMMUNICATE AND COOPERATE WITH AMERICANS, IT WOULD BE INCONGRUOUS TO SCALE BACK THE ACTIVITIES OF USIS.

5. IN ADDITION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR NEW UNIVERSITIES AND THREE NEW COLLEGES IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF, IN ADDITION TO THE TRADITIONAL SIX UNIVERSITIES, HAS PLACED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLACE, GREATER DEMANDS ON USIS TO BROADEN ITS CONTACTS WITH THESE INFLUENTIAL INSTITUTIONS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE FOR THE THREE BRANCH POSTS. IN THE IMPORTANT EASTERN AREA OF NIGERIA, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN NO USG OFFICES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, THERE IS PRESSING NEED FOR THE REOPENING OF A USIS OFFICE IN ENUGO. THIS NEED IS SUPPORTED BY THE PARM AND BY USIA IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION, THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA PLANS TO RECRUIT UP TO 500 US TEACHERS FOR ITS UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES BY 1980. THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 10325 081313Z

SELECTION AND INFLUX OF AMERICAN TEACHERS INTO ALL AREAS OF NIGERIA WILL INCREASE THE FACILITATIVE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS OF USIS.

6. THEREFORE, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, USIS'S ROLE IN SUPPORT OF US INTERESTS IN NIGERIA WILL BE INCREASED, AND STAFF LEVELS SHOULD NOT BE DECREASED.

7. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE CONSISTS OF 3 OFFICERS, 2 ENLISTED MEN, 1 AMERICAN CIVILIAN AND 2 LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THIS OFFICE OBVIOUSLY OCCUPIES A PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN A COUNTRY WHICH HAS BEEN GOVERNED BY THE MILITARY SINCE 1966. IT IS PRIMARILY OCCUPIED WITH INTELLIGENCE GATHERING, THE ADMINISTRATION OF A MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM, AND THE PROMOTION OF BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT AT ALL LEVELS. FOR OVER A YEAR THIS OFFICE HAS OPERATED UNDER STRICT TRAVEL AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS WHICH HAVE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED ITS INTELLIGENCE GATHERING CAPABILITIES. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THESE RESTRICTIONS WILL EASE AND THAT ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTELLIGENCE GATHERING WILL DEVELOP. THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED THIS SPRING, AND I CONCLUDE AT PRESENT, THAT NO REDUCTION IN THE STAFFING LEVEL OF THIS OFFICE IS CALLED FOR AT PRESENT. IT MAY IN THE

FUTURE BE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO ELIMINATE ONE OFFICER POSITION IF THE SCHEDULE FOR RETURNING CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS IS ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTED. IN MID-1978 THE MISSION THEREFORE PLANS TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR MAINTAINING THE NUMBER TWO OFFICER POSITION, THAT OF THE AIR ATTACHE.

8. THE AGRICULTURALMUTTACHE OFFICE CONSISTS OF 1 AMERICAN OFFICER, 1 AMERICAN STAFF AND 1 PROFESSIONAL LOCAL EMPLOYEE. IT COVERS GHANA AND CAMEROON IN ADDITION TO NIGERIA. THE OFFICE IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO THE MISSION'S OVERALL PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT ARISING FROM INCREASED EMPHASIS NOW BEING GIVEN TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN ADDITION, THIS OFFICE HAS SIGNIFICANT TRADE PROMOTION RESPONSIBILITIES. US FOOD EXPORTS TO NIGERIA INCREASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 LAGOS 10325 081313Z

BY OVER 55 PERCENT LAST YEAR END ARE EXPECTED TO DOUBLE THIS YEAR. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT NO REDUCTION IN THIS SMALL OFFICE BE MADE.

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